

In the Claims

1           1. A method for operating an optical reader having an  
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:  
3           clocking out at least one frame of image data in a low  
4 resolution frame clock out mode of operation;  
5           reading pixel values from said at least one frame  
6 clocked- out in said low resolution clock out mode to  
7 determine an operating parameter of said reader; and  
8           utilizing said operating parameter in operating said  
9 reader.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution  
2 mode clock out step includes the step of clock out electrical  
3 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image  
4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an  
5 overall frame clock out rate is increased.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution  
2 mode clock out step includes the steps of clocking out some  
3 rows of said image sensor array at a normal clock out rate and  
4 other rows of said image sensor at a higher than normal clock  
5 out rate.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution  
2 clock out step includes the step of selectively clocking out

3 electrical signals corresponding to some pixels of said image  
4 sensor and not clocking out electrical signals corresponding  
5 to other pixels of said sensor.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor  
2 includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a  
3 discharge control signals, wherein said low resolution mode  
4 clock out step include the step of intermittently activating  
5 said discharge control signal while clocking out a frame of  
6 image data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an exposure parameter value.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an illumination intensity value.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an illumination on-time value.

1 9. The method of claims 1, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating

1 parameter is a dark level adjustment value.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is a light level adjustment value.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step  
2 of decoding a decodable symbol representation represented in a  
3 frame of image data developed utilizing said operating  
4 parameter.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said frame clocked  
2 out in said low resolution frame clock out mode is clocked out  
3 to produce a low resolution parameter determination frame of  
4 image data in which valid and invalid data zones are defined  
5 by rows of said image sensor.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor  
2 includes a one frame buffer and wherein said low resolution  
3 clock out step includes the step of clocking out three frames  
4 of image data in a low resolution frame clock out mode.

1 15. A method for operating an optical reader having an  
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:  
3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution

4 mode of operation; and  
5 in said low resolution mode, clocking out electrical  
6 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image  
7 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an  
8 overall frame clock out rate is increased.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said clock out step  
2 includes the steps of clock out some rows of said image sensor  
3 array at a normal clock out rate and other rows of said image  
4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said image sensor  
2 includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a  
3 discharge control signals, wherein said clock out step include  
4 the step of intermittently activating said discharge control  
5 signal while clock out a frame of image data.

1 18. A method for operating an optical reader having an  
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:  
3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution  
4 mode of operation; and selecting in said low resolution mode,  
5 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels  
6 of said image sensor and not clocking out electrical signals  
7 corresponding to other pixels of said image sensor.

1 19. An optical reader comprising:  
2 an imaging assembly having an image sensor;  
3 a controller, wherein said controller is adapted to clock  
4 out at least one low resolution frame of image data, wherein  
5 said controller is adapted to read pixel values from said at  
6 least one low resolution frame of image data to determine an  
7 operating parameter of said reader, and wherein said  
8 controller is adapted to utilize said operating parameter in  
9 operating said reader.

1 20. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller  
2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by clocking  
3 out electrical signals of said frame at a higher than normal  
4 rate.

1 21. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller  
2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by not  
3 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels  
4 of said frame.

1 22. The reader of claim 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an exposure parameter value.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an illumination intensity value.

1 24. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an illumination on-time value.

1 25. The method of claims 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value.

1 26. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is a dark level adjustment value.

1 27. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating  
2 parameter is a light level adjustment value.

1 28. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller is  
2 further adapted to decode a decodable symbol representation  
3 represented in a frame of image data developed utilizing said  
4 operating parameter.

1 29. The reader of claim 19, wherein said imaging  
2 assembly includes an illumination assembly.

1 30. The reader of claim 19, wherein said illumination  
2 assembly includes white LEDs.